

It has been said that "the health of the people of any country should have the first and highest claim on the Government." Unfortunately in this country sanitary legislation is not even in an embryonic state. We are absolutely without the very first principles of sanitary legislation. In fact, we are in as bad a condition in that respect as were the people of England during the reign of Henry VIII. In those times, when disease and pestilence did occur, it was looked upon as an evidence of Divine wrath, which drove the superstitious to their knees, instead of stimulating them to ascertain the cause of the plague, with a view to its removal.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

MONTREAL, NOV., 1874.

DEAR SIR,—Will you please report the total number of cases of Typhoid fever and Small Pox you have had under your care, during the month of October, and make the necessary remarks on the cause of these diseases.

REPORT :—Please give the residence of the cases reported, in order to know the unhealthy localities, and take the necessary precautions.

The above is a circular which has been left with every medical man in the city, and we believe a sanitary officer is detailed to make a personal application for the information sought. We question very much whether the profession will comply with this request, and if even the returns become general, whether any good will result.

Although it may be desirable to obtain correct information on this important topic, yet the Board of Health are powerless and cannot enforce their demand. Typhoid fever is very general in all quarters of the city, but more especially where there exists a state of overcrowding of buildings for the accommodation of the poorer class. The system of covering every inch of ground with inferior residences, and filling them with tenants, which is to be seen in all